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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,831	01/08/2001	John Peter Karidis	RPS920000078US1	6862

7590 03/21/2003

John Bruce Schelkopf  
IBM Corporation  
Legal Dept.  
Dept. 9CCA/Bldg.002-2  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

EXAMINER
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SHIN, CHRISTOPHER B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/756,831

Applicant(s)

KARIDIS, JOHN PETER

Examiner

C SHIN

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.                      6) ☐ Other: .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 6, line 3, the phrase "universal connection means" lacks proper and clear antecedent basis.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trane (6,219,227).

i. In figures 1-3 & 6 and their respective description section of the Trane reference teaches all of the basic claimed limitations as follows:

#### Claims 1-10

#### Trane (6,219,227)

- a notebook computer with an I/O physical user interface
  - feature of figure 1 system
- base containing a keyboard for said notebook computer
  - feature of figure 1, (24)
- base has an extended portion beyond said keyboard creating a widened keyboard base
  - feature of figure 1, widened portion (16)

- widened display having a widened I/O display area corresponding to said widened keyboard base
  - feature of figure 1, (14)
- widened display having a width substantially equal to a width of said widened keyboard base
  - feature of (14 & 24)
- I/O device area disposed within said extended portion of said widened keyboard base
  - feature of (16), figure 1
- interface signal connecting means mounted within said I/O device area, operable to couple signals from said notebook computer to an I/O device
  - feature of figure 3
- I/O device area, is recessed below a surface, operable to receive said I/O device
  - feature of (46), figure 3
- interface signal connection means is disposed within said recessed I/O device area
  - feature of (54), figure 3
- interface connection interposer (ICI) is disposed between said interface signal connection means and said I/O device, disposed within said recessed I/O device area
  - feature of figure 3
- (ICI) operable compensate for both mechanical and signal routing differences between said universal connection means, said recessed I/O area and said I/O device
  - feature of figure 3
- widened I/O display area is used to display operational data relative to operation of said I/O device when said I/O device is sending or receiving signals to said notebook computer
  - feature of columns 9-10, lines 43-6
- first/second communication software instructions controlling communication between said notebook and said I/O device
  - feature of columns 9-10, lines 43-6
- I/O device has functionality wholly separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook
  - feature of (48), figure 3

ii. As for the claims 1-10, the difference between the claimed invention and teachings of the Trane reference is that the reference does not identically or expressly teaches the claimed limitation "widened display". However, such limitation is an obvious design choice matter to one having ordinary skill in the art. This is because, the Trane reference teaches, in column 27-35, the motivation of using any size display according the designer's choice. Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one having ordinary skill in the art to come up with the claimed invention for the reasons stated above, since all of the basic limitations and the motivation are disclosed by the Trane reference.

iii. As for the claims 11-14, due to the similarity between the claims 1-10 & the claims 11-14 are not patentably distinctive from claims 1-10, the teachings of the claims 1-10 are similarly applied.

5. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trane (6,219,227) in view of Saeguse (5,568,224).

i. The teachings of Trane on claims 1-14 are similarly applied (see above for the teachings/rejection details)

6. As can be seen from the Saeguse reference, column 2, lines 51-53, teaches "notebook 3 is capable of wide screen display based on a dot LCD and incorporates a communication function. This is another/additional more specific support/evidence of the examiner's 103 motivation "obvious design choice" rationale. As can be seen above from the teachings of Trane, the Trane reference teaches the motivation to use any size/type of display and the Saeguse specifically teaches wide screen display on a notebook that was well known at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the Trane & Saeguse references to come up with the invention for the reasons state above.

7. **Any Response To This Action Should Be Mailed To:**

**If The Action Is Non-Final**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**If The action is Final**

**Box AF**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 746-7238, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE")

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to**

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Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

**Any Other Telephone Communication Should Be Directed To**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Shin whose telephone number is (703) 305-9658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Christopher B. Shin  
March 18, 2003

*Christopher B. Shin*

**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

**ART UNIT 2182**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Shin', written in a cursive style.